

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03

JUSE-00 FTC-01 /053 W

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R 211528Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2421

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10149

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EAIR, US, UR

SUBJECT: AEROFLOT ADHERENCE TO TICKETING PROVISIONS OF US-USSR
CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT

REF: A. STATE 168609 B. MOSCOW 0384

1. SUMMARY - ACCORDING TO MOSCOW-BASED PANAM REPS, AEROFLOT PERFORMANCE IN AREA OF TICKETING CONTINUES TO BE SATISFACTORY.
END SUMMARY.

2. IN COURSE OF VARIOUS RECENT DISCUSSION, MOSCOW PAN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES (PRIMARILY DRAHORAD AND VAESSEN) HAVE EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH AEROFLOT PERFORMANCE IN TICKETING PAN AM CLIENTS DURING PAST SEVEN MONTHS. ALL PERSONS (EXCEPT THIRD-COUNTRY STUDENTS) WISHING TO TRAVEL VIA PAN AM, WHETHER INITIALLY FROM MOSCOW OR VIA INTERCHANGE POINT, MAY BE TICKETED WITH PAYMENT IN RUBLES. THIS INCLUDES TCP EMIGRANTS TRAVELLING TO US VIA ROME. ONLY REQUIREMENT (EXCEPT FOR DIPLOMATS) IS THAT TRAVELER MUST BE ABLE TO PROVE THAT HIS RUBLES WERE ACQUIRED LEGITIMATELY. THIRD-COUNTRY STUDENTS GENERALLY ARE CONSIDERED "SPECIAL CATEGORY" BY SOVIETS, WHO ARGUE THAT SINCE THEIR EDUCATION IS BEING PAID FOR BY SOVIET GOVERNMENT THEY SHOULD WHENEVER POSSIBLE TRAVEL ON AEROFLOT. PAN AM DOES NOT OBJECT TO THIS ARRANGEMENT.

3. WITHIN OVERALL ACCOMMODATING POSTURE ADOPTED BY AEROFLOT,
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IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THERE ARE LIMITS (SOMETIMES IRKSOME) IN

SOVIET TICKETING POLICY. FOR EXAMPLE, SOVIETS WILL GENERALLY NOT ISSUE ROUND-TRIP TICKETS FOR TRAVELLERS PROCEEDING OUTBOUND ON PAN AM AND RETURNING VIA ANOTHER CARRIER. AEROFLOT STATES THAT IN SUCH CASES ITS OBLIGATIONS AS GENERAL AGENT FOR PAN AM DO NOT REQUIRE IT TO TICKET PASSENGERS ON THIRD COUNTRY AIRLINES WHEN RETURN TRAVEL COULD BE PERFORMED ON EITHER PAN AM OR AEROFLOT.

4. ANOTHER MILD IRRITANT IS AEROFLOT PRACTICE OF TICKETING ONLY TO "FARTHEST POINT" EVEN IF THAT IS NOT TRAVELLERS'S FINAL DESTINATION. FOR EXAMPLE, EMBASSY EMPLOYEES TRANSFERRING TO WASHINGTON VIA HOME LEAVE -- E.G. MOSCOW-NEW YORK-CHICAGO-WASHINGTON -- WILL BE TICKETED BY AEROFLOT ONLY AS FAR AS CHICAGO. EMPLOYEE MUST THEN PURCHASE TICKET IN CHICAGO FOR CHICAGO-WASHINGTON SEGMENT. THIS IS NOT ONLY INCONVENIENT, BUT ALSO FORCES EMBASSY TO ISSUE TWO GTRS. THIS PRACTICE TENDS TO RESULT IN GREATER COSTS TO USG.

5. OVERALL, HOWEVER, PAN AM REPS ARE QUITE PLEASED WITH AEROFLOT'S COMPLIANCE WITH TICKETING OBLIGATIONS IT UNDERTOOK LATE LAST YEAR (REF B).
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AVIATION AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW10149
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750251-0847
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750737/aaaabhbe.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 168609, 75 MOSCOW 0384
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AEROFLOT ADHERENCE TO TICKETING PROVISIONS OF US-USSR CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT
TAGS: EAIR, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006